AGRI., CO-OPN. & FORESTS

(ii) Department of Agriculture

406. The Grow More Food Section which was established in 1943 was transferred to the control of the Commissioner for Food Production and constituted into a separate Department in October 1949. The Additional Deputy Director of Agriculture, the Agricultural Engineer and the Statistician and the Headquarters Assistant to the Director of Agriculture were also transferred to the new Department with their staff. A considerable part of the ministerial and menial staff of the Agricultural Department was also transferred to the control of the Commissioner.

407. There was no bifurcation in the District staff but they were ordered to work under the instructions of both the Director of Agriculture and the Commissioner for Food Production, while the administrative control vested with the Director of Agriculture.

408. The rains were timely and adequate early in the season and in many districts preparation and sowing were well done. But heavy rains late in September and early in October blighted the rich promise held out by the early season. Tanks which usually received their supplies during October either failed or dried up and the summer crop season which depended on tanks and reservoirs was none too bright. The virtual drying up of the Krishnarajsagar not only rendered summer cropping in the Visvesvaraya Canal system impossible but led to a wholesale drying up of standing crops particularly young cane. Great distress prevailed in Mandya District by the end of the year.

Agricultural education.

409. Of the six agricultural institutions run by the Department, the Agricultural College and Post Secondary School at Hebbal continued to be under the control of the Principal, Agricultural College. The remaining four Kannada schools were under the control of the Director of Agriculture.

Agricultural farms.

410. Of the seven Departmental Farms, the Visvesvaraya Canal Farm, Mandya District, the Government Experimental Farm, Babbur, Chitaldrug District, the Anandapuram Farm at Anandapuram, Shimoga District and the Anjanapur Farm at Anjanapur, Shimoga District continued to be under the charge of the Director. The three farms at Hebbal, Nagenahalli and Bikli were under

the control of the Principal, Agricultural College. In addition to these, two Regional Farms, one at Chamarajanagar and the other at Yelavare in Arsikere Taluk, Hassan District were opened. Nine basic seed farms, one in each District were secured on lease from private holders for the multiplication of improved paddy strains received for distribution under the Grow More Food campaign. The Taluk Demonstration Farms one at Bugudanahalli (Tumkur Taluk) and the other at Kadur were also started. Two of the three State Farms sanctioned by Government in March 1949 were started at Dhanagur, Malvalli Taluk. In addition, there were four School Farms attached to Kannada Agricultural Schools.

Government Experimental Farm, Babbur.

411. All the cultivable area of 175 acres in this Farm was brought under cultivation. The receipts in the Farm amounted to Rs. 25,551. Three hundred tons of compost were prepared. In the gin worked as an adjunct to the Farm, 2,400 maunds of cotton kappas were ginned.

Visvesvaraya Canal Farm, Mandya.

412. The Farm has shown gradual improvement in its scope, usefulness and revenue during the year. The receipts in the Farm amounted to Rs. 79,006 which constituted a record. The year was the worst for the Farm since its inception in 1931. The Krishnarajsagar Reservoir went dry and there was little or no water to feed the crops in the hot months of the year. The phenomenal success of the Sugar Factory near this Farm is largely due to this Farm. In recognition of this and the more important role it has to play in the agricultural and economic development of the whole of the Visvesvaraya Canal tract in future years, the Farm was placed on a permanent footing. Eighty seven varieties of paddy were procured from different parts of India and 33 were selected for high yield and early maturing. Coorka tubers obtained from Travancore were planted in March. In addition, collections of small millets, oil seeds, fibre crops, essential oils, chillies, tobacco varieties, forage crops from Italy, Hybrid maize from U.S.A., etc., were also introduced. Out of the entire cultivable area of about 420 acres, an extent of 284 acres was actually brought under cultivation.

Soil survey.

413. In connection with the big irrigation *cum* hydro-electric project at Lakkavalli in Tarikere Taluk across the Bhadra river, a combined soil and agricultural survey of about 180,000 acres that was taken up last year was

AGRI., CO-OPN. & FORESTS

pursued. Sixty-one thousand nine hundred and seven acres in the Taluks of Harihar and Honnali were completed. The area that will come under the Left Bank Channel (Bhadravati) and the Davangere channel was surveyed. The soils were classified into groups according to colour, texture, suitability for irrigation, existing and proposed crops and maps prepared. Of the several Post-war Schemes initiated in June 1948, the Rural Compost Scheme and the Seed Multiplication and Distribution schemes were continued.

Plant protection.

414. Temporary Plant Protection Assistants posted for plant protection scheme sanctioned in August 1947 were replaced by Agricultural Graduates from the Mysore Agricultural College, Hebbal. The number of demonstrations in protection of plants against diseases and pests was nearly 2,000. About 50,000 acres were protected during the year in several parts of the State.

Cotto n distribution scheme.

415. The cotton seed distribution scheme sponsored and aided by the Indian Central Cotton Committee was started in June 1946. With the object of replacing within five years the local strains both in the Sannahatti (Asiatic Cotton) and Doddahatti (American cotton), tracts of the State with improved cottons were evolved by the State Department of Agriculture. M.A.V. and Sel. 69 were the two main strains under distribution in the scheme. One hundred and sixty-eight lbs. of M.A.V. seed cotton were collected in the V. C. Farm and 140 lbs. of Sel. 69 in Babbur Farm. These pure seeds were taken to subvention farms in various parts of the State. These subvention farms are laid on the cultivators' own holdings and for the extra attention and labour involved in keeping the strains pure. The holders were paid a small subvention.

416. As a result of distribution undertaken by the Department, the area under M.A.V. cotton and Sel. 69 was 9,000 and 2,960 acres, respectively. A new scheme for the rapid expansion was being put through for which funds are being provided by the Indian Central Cotton Committee. The target of production by the end of the next five years is tentatively fixed at 50,000 bales against the current production of 17,000 bales.

Agricultural extension.

417. With the formation of Multi-purpose Co-operative Societies in almost every revenue circle, the trading activities which tied down, the extension staff, depots and

godowns were transferred to the Societies from August 1949.

418. The Grow More Food Section was constituted into a separate Department under a Commissioner for Food Production. Barring compost and seed multiplication schemes, all the other activities were transferred to the new Department. Two thousand six hundred and forty one (2,425) demonstration plots, 121 (131) subvention farms and 297 (505) 'A' Farms were laid. Proposals were made to enlist the services of the natural leaders of the farming community as "Master Farmers" and to utilise their holdings for all demonstrations and propaganda undertaken by the Department. To encourage the natural competition that exists in progressive rural communities for purposes of stepping up food production, prizes and crop competitions were instituted. The Department participated in a number of exhibitions in different parts of the State.

419. Three Colonies in the Visvesvaraya Canal area and one in Marconahalli area were working during the year. Agricultural Colonies.

Department of Food Production.

420. A separate Department of Food Production was started in the State from October 1949. A three-year plan for stepping up food production was drawn up with a view to make the State self-sufficient in the matter of food requirements which was approved by the Central Government.

421. The work of Food Production Branch grew considerably both in administrative and accounts side and with a view to increase the efficiency of the Department, some additional staff was sanctioned in December 1949.

422. The personal deposit account sanctioned for the Central Implement Depot was transferred to this Department on 10th February 1950. The Agricultural Engineering Section was also re-organised in May 1950 to cope with the increased activities in the matter of supply and service of tractors and bulldozers. The sale of agricultural implements, seeds and manures formerly undertaken in the several depots of the Agricultural Department were transferred to the Multi-purpose Co-operative societies in the State the scheme of which was inaugurated in June 1949. These societies are a part and parcel of the